REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this reply, claims 23, 27, 29, 31, 34, 37, 39, 42-52 and 54 will be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein so that claims 1-20, 23, 27, 29, 31, 34, 37, 39, 42-52 and 54 will be canceled claims; and claims 21, 40 and 53 will be amended, so that claims 21, 22, 24-26, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35-36, 38, 40, 41 and 53 will remain pending with claims 21 and 53 being independent claims.

Entry of this amendment after final rejection is appropriate in that it places the allowable subject matter of claim 39 into independent claim 21. Moreover, the subject matter of claim 39 has been included in claim 53. Moreover, the claims have been amended to address the claim objection which required claim indentations, and to change claim dependency based upon the amendment and cancellation of claims. Accordingly, this amendment seeks to advance prosecution of the application by amending the independent claims to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 39 and to address issues raised in the Final Office Action.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Discussion of Telephone Interview

Applicants express appreciation for the courtesies extended by the Examiner to Applicants' representative Arnold Turk during an August 1,7, 2005 telephone interview.

During the interview the rejections of record were discussed, and Applicants' representative emphasized arguments as presented in the previous response regarding differences in the processes claimed by Applicants and disclosed in Uemura.

Arguments were presented, while denoting recitations in the claims, that in contrast to Uemura in Applicants' process the feed is from a waste degassing and/or gasification process, that the solid waste products and waste gases are wholly or partially introduced in a funnel-shaped lower part of a shaft-shaped furnace, that the waste gases are introduced tangentially, and that in Applicants' process decomposed products are downwardly discharged from the chamber. Reference was also made to Uemura wherein it is disclosed that reference numeral 27 denotes openings for flow of air to prevent entry of solids.

The Examiner recommended clarifying the claim language and amending the claims.

Response To Restriction Requirement

In response to the maintaining of the Restriction Requirement, Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 42-52 and 54 without prejudice to the filing of the subject matter included in these claims in ore or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Response To Objection

Claims 21 and 53 are objected to as being of improper form as not being indented.

In response, claims 21 and 53 have been amended to be indented and to modify the language to be consistent with such indentation.

Accordingly, this ground of object should be withdrawn.

Response To Allowable Subject Matter And Rejections

Applicants express appreciation for the indicated allowable subject matter in claims 39-40. In particular, claims 39 and 40 are not rejected over prior art, but are objected to as being dependent upon rejected claims.

By the amendment herein, the remaining independent claims have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 39. Accordingly, the rejections of record should be withdrawn, and each of the pending should be indicated to be allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments presented herein have been made to advance prosecution of the application, and do not in any manner express Applicants' agreement or acquiescence with the rejections of record. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that for the reasons previously set forth by Applicants claims 21-25, 27-32, 38, 41 and 53 are not properly rejectable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uemura, U.S. Patent No. 4,308,806, or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uemura in view of Sawai, JP '01239309 A. Moreover, claims 24, 26 and 33-37 are not properly rejectable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uemura in view of Sawai, JP '01239309 A, and further in view of what the Examiner considers to be well known in the art, as presently demonstrated by Miyoshi, U.S. Patent No. 6,321,540.

In view of the above, the rejections of record should be withdrawn, and all of the pending claims indicated to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections of record, and allow each of the pending claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that an early notification of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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